Demand to amend NAIS

1692. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it would be useful for farmers if National Agricultural Insurance Scheme covers before sowing or planting rather than the present method of coverage;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the farming community and others have been demanding for (a) above; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not accepting the above genuine demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The losses caused to crops from sowing to harvesting only are covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Coverage of pre-sowing or planting would be useful for farmers who are not able to sow/plant their crops due to deficit rainfall or adverse weather conditions though they had intension of doing so, and had incurred the expenditure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Keeping in view the suggestions of States/UTs and other stake-holders, a Joint Group was constituted by the Government, to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. The Group has reviewed the scheme and made important recommendations including coverage of pre-sowing/planting period. Based on these recommendations a proposal on Modified NAIS has been prepared.

Delay in paying claims of AP MARKFED

1693. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is taking a long time for verifying and approving claims of Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (AP MARKFED);

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that claims of AP MARKFED are languishing in his Ministry from 2003-04, till date;

(c) if so, the reasons for such an enormous delay; and

(d) the manner in which his Ministry is planning to address this issue and cut the time and pay the claims of AP MARKFED within six months of submission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the existing policy and procedure, provisional incidentals for procurement of rice, wheat and Coarsegrains applicable to central pool in respect of all the States including Andhra Pradesh are issued at the beginning of each Marketing Season. For finalization of these provisional incidentals, annual audited accounts/ annual reports are submitted by State Governments and their agencies. Same are examined in the Department and a detailed report is prepared for each crop year. This report is sent to State Government for their comments/suggestions on provisional findings. A meeting is convened in the Department with the concerned State Government at their request in case they have differing opinion on provisional findings to finalise the incidental rates.

After issue of final incidentals, payment of balance amount to the State/State agency is made by the Food Corporation of India on receipt of claims form the State.

In respect of coarsegrains (Maize) procured by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and its agencies, including Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (AP MARKFED), incidentals for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 have already been finalized and communicated to State Government on 03.12.2008 and 07.01.2009 respectively. The State Government requested for revision of economic cost finalized by the Department. The matter was discussed with State Government/AP MARKFED in the meetings on 20.04.2009 and 02.09.2009 and based on discussions, the State Government was requested to send additional information alongwith relevant documents for reconsideration of Department. The same has been received on 01.12.2009 in the Department.

Financial Accounts of Government of Andhra Pradesh/AP MARKFED in respect of procurement of rice for the year 2001-02 to 2005-06 were received together in August, 2008. Kharif Marketing wise accounts/claim have been sent only for 2002-03 on 04.11.2009. There is no undue delay in finalization of accounts of AP MARKFED and time taken for finalization is due to delayed submission of accounts/incomplete information and documents from the State.

Potential to export fruits and vegetables

1694. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial increase in the production of fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, in what ways the fruits and vegetables produced in the country are utilized;

(c) whether any possibility has been explored by Government to increase the export of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the performance in that regard during the last three years, year-wise?